

# America's

# FUTURE

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## THE BIG SHOW

From where we now stand, and barring a major world holocaust, the big story of the coming year will be the Presidential campaign. Already, there is a goodly batch of contenders who claim they are not running for anything at the moment. But each one wants to be at the finish-line when the nominating conventions meet next summer. Of course, only two of them can make it—one for the Democrats and one for the Republicans.

The important question for the average American is: Will

there be a real choice of issues and men between the two parties? Once upon a time – and for many generations – issues in American national elections were sharply drawn. Then, after Franklin D. Roosevelt spent nearly four terms in the White House, we had the rise of what came to be known as “me-tooism.” It is this which has characterized the last four presidential elections. It signifies the modern habit of one party trying to outdo the other in running the United States on

the old European model - which means centralized power, Big Government and endless spending. This is contrasted with the American model of decentralized government, states' rights, and a national regime with severely restricted power over the people's money.

On the Democratic side, the chief contenders for the nomination are Adlai Stevenson, Senator Humphrey of Minnesota, Senator Kennedy of Massachusetts, Senator Johnson of Texas, Senator Symington of Missouri, and a few other hopefuls like Governors Meyer, Williams and Brown. All of them can be classed, in varying degrees, as modern "liberals" - in other words, as Big-Government, big-spending men.

On the Republican side, the

chief contenders are Vice-President Nixon and Governor Rockefeller of New York. There is little discernible difference between Governor Rockefeller and the Democratic hopefuls. In fact, one of his own speechwriters recently said Governor Rockefeller could be a Democrat without changing a single position he now holds. As for Mr. Nixon, he is, of course, in a difficult spot as an official of the administration. Therefore those Americans opposed to modern "liberals" in both parties, are not yet certain that he stands for the same principles they do. Mr. Nixon will undoubtedly make his position clearer as time goes on. In any case, it is going to be a big show, and an interesting one to watch.

## KEYS TO THE TREASURY

I note that the feature-story writers who went along with the President on his recent 11-nation tour were intrigued by the strange and wonderful gifts he received from foreign potentates. Mr. Eisenhower, of course, presented gifts to his hosts in return. He took along, for example, a lot of key rings. The *Wall Street Journal* re-

marked that this was somewhat puzzling at first. But after counting all the promises of more American dollars to nearly every country he visited, the *Journal* decided the President's key-ring gifts were a necessity. These nations need them to carry the keys to the United States Treasury!

Seriously though, this question of foreign giveaways

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is likely to be one of the big subjects during the coming months. The question is - how much more of this profligate spending can the American taxpayer stand? Finally, after 15 years of foreign handouts (in which both Republicans and Democrats tried to outdo each other) serious-minded experts are beginning to question the whole policy. The hardship to American taxpayers is bad enough, but now we are beginning to hear that the handouts actually do more harm than good in the countries which receive them.

### HANDOUTS FOR SOCIALISM

Take India for instance. We have already poured hundreds

of millions of dollars into India. There are various proposals for spending billions more in this so-called underdeveloped country. But Prof. P. T. Bauer of Cambridge University in England, has made a careful study of American foreign aid to India. The American Enterprise Association recently published his findings. He says that our foreign handouts to India, instead of raising living standards, are really holding them back. And instead of promoting an India willing to resist leftist trends, more handouts to India could actually set up there a completely socialized economy with an all-powerful central state. I remind you that India is already a heavily socialized country. So what our foreign handouts are doing is to make her into a nation hardly distinguishable from Red Russia. This is indeed a strange use to which to put the dollars of American taxpayers.

While we are talking about India, you will recall that much was made of the tremendous reception which President Eisenhower received there. But I wonder how many of you noted what happened when the President spoke to the Indian Parliament. The applause was

thunderous - so long as he was voicing platitudes about peace and friendship - and prosperity, with American

dollars. But when he spoke about communist aggression, the Indian Parliament sat on its hands.

## A REAL CHOICE?

Of course, this subject of foreign handouts is part of a bigger, and tremendously important, subject - the whole question of federal-government spending. Undoubtedly this will be one of the big subjects as the presidential campaign gets under way next year. On this score, nothing illustrates better what has happened to our two-party system. Suppose we had one party which was dedicated to reduced spending, to a balanced budget, to lowering taxes. And suppose the other party said - never mind a balanced budget or a big debt or high taxes; we'll spend on foreign aid, domestic handouts, more welfare-statism. If this were the case, voters who felt the prosperity and well-being - even the freedom - of the country depended on sound federal fiscal policies could vote for the first party. Other voters who felt it more important that the government take care of everybody, even at the risk of bankruptcy, could vote for the second

party. There would really be a choice.

But, as of now, what happens? Each of the major parties accuses the other of being a spendthrift. And then each tries to outdo the other in proposals for more and more spending. The most serious aspect of the whole drive is that it is eating away at the very foundations of the American Republic. We must always and eternally remember that the federal government has nothing. Before it can give, it must take. And in taking so much, it acquires a power over our incomes, and over the sovereign states which are an essential part of our free system. This is a power which was never intended by the founders of the Republic. At the end of this road lies the all-powerful central government in Washington. Once it is complete, we can kiss our freedom - and abundance - goodbye.

Perhaps, the present situation being what it is, the only solution, so far as the

coming campaign is concerned, is one suggested by several political observers. It is that the voters pay close attention to their congressional candidates, question them closely, and demand unequivocal answers. Then the voters can vote for those who more closely represent their own views, regardless of party labels. In the end, Congress

is equally as important as the President - if not more so. And eventually, if Americans exercise this right of citizenship zealously and attentively, might come new party alignments so that once again free Americans may have a free and definitive choice between the policies and candidates of the two parties.

- John T. Flynn

*Foregoing items covered in Mutual network broadcast 12/27/59*

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## Book Review AN UNBEATABLE COMBINATION

PROSPECTS OF A GOLDEN AGE by John Dos Passos, 271 pages, Prentice-Hall, Englewood Cliffs, N. J., \$7.50.

We do not know how better to describe this book than to print (with his publisher's permission) Mr. Dos Passos' own foreword to PROSPECTS OF A GOLDEN AGE:

"The founders of American institutions came of a tough and agile race. They were men of many varied intellectual and manual skills. They combined shrewdness and efficiency with public spirit.

"How did they learn to manipulate the society they lived in so successfully? How did they get to know so much? How

did they manage to pack so much work into a day? These are the questions you keep asking yourself when you read their letters and diaries.

"Part of the answer is that their experience was direct, at the fingertips. There were great readers among them, students and theorists, but without exception they had dealt from boyhood with the practical realities of life on a virgin continent.

"They were settlers and farmers and plantation managers. They were surveyors. They were horsemen. They rowed boats and sailed ships. They were lawyers and merchants and printers and craftsmen

and medical practitioners. The breadth of their interests included the fine arts and the burgeoning sciences. They produced a school of painting and a style of architecture. They tinkered with inventions. When the need rose they proved themselves skilled fighters on land and sea. Their daily occupations taught them the handling of other men.

"Government they considered the noblest preoccupation of man. The aim of government was the happiness of the governed. Happiness to the eighteenth century Americans meant something more than an improved standard of living. It meant dignity, independence, selfgovernment. It meant opportunity for the young, a serene old age and fearlessness in the face of death.

"This book is an effort to illustrate some snatches and samples of the lives of some of the men of the great generation of 1776 and of the generations that followed im-

mediately after. It was their skills, coupled with a profound belief in themselves and in man's capacity, that made their achievements possible. Refreshing our school-book knowledge of their adventures and of their aspirations may help us not to forget what great things men are capable of."

We would add only that this is one of the most beautiful books we have seen in a long time - beautifully printed, copiously and tastefully illustrated, and worth every penny of its price. As for Mr. Dos Passos, he has taken for himself the beginnings of the American Republic, brought to its protagonists, great and small, the good novelist's talent for characterization, and added a deep and abiding admiration for the factors which made the American nation. It is an unbeatable combination to hold the interest of young and old.

- Rosalie Gordon

## HOW TO MAKE DELINQUENTS

*The Houston (Tex.) Police Department has issued the following "Twelve Rules for Raising Delinquent Children: "*

"1. Begin with infancy to give the child everything he wants. In this way he will grow up to believe the world owes him a living.

"2. When he picks up bad words, laugh at him. This will

make him think he's cute. It will also encourage him to pick up 'cuter' phrases that will blow off the top of your head later.

"3. Never give him any spiritual training. Wait until he is 21 and then let him 'decide for himself.'

"4. Avoid the use of the word 'wrong.' It may develop a guilt complex. This will condition him to believe later, when he is arrested for stealing a car, that society is against him and he is being persecuted.

"5. Pick up everything he leaves lying around - books, shoes, clothes. Do everything for him so that he will be experienced in throwing all responsibility on others.

"6. Let him read any printed matter he can get his hands on. Be careful that the silverware and drinking glasses are sterilized, but let his mind feast on garbage.

"7. Quarrel frequently in the presence of your children. In this way they will not be too shocked when the home is broken up later.

"8. Give a child all the spending money he wants. Never let him earn his own. Why should he have things as tough as you had them?

"9. Satisfy his every craving for food, drink, and comfort. See that every sensual desire is gratified. Denial may lead to harmful frustration.

"10. Take his part against neighbors, teachers, policemen. They are all prejudiced against your child.

"11. When he gets into real trouble, apologize for yourself by saying 'I never could do anything with him.'

"12. Prepare for a life of grief. You will be likely to have it."

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